safeguard the country's security and national interest in accordance with our own threat perceptions.

Russian Assurance for Non Supply of Arms to Pakistan

940. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been assured by Russia that it will not supply arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether, as a part of this assurance, Russia is not supplying vital parts of its modern battle tanks, lest they may be passed on to Pakistan in a tank deal Ukraine has made with it;

(c) whether Russia is unhappy that India is delaying placing orders for modern tanks with it and a further delay may compel Russia to sell vital tank spares to Ukraine which may sell the same to Pakistan; and

(d) the reaction of Government to this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMAL A SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Settling Border Disputes with Neighbouring Countries

941. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main points of border disputes of India with the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, China and Bangladesh;

(b) what are the main hurdles insettling these disputes; and

(c) what is the present position in settling these disputes, stating the initiatives contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Position regarding 'settling border disputes with neighbouring countries'.

Pakistan :

Pakistan is in illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 sq kms of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, Pakistan has illegally ceded approximately 5120 sq kms of Indian territory in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China under the so-called Sino-Pak Boundary Agreement of 1963. India and Pakistan also have differences in the interpretation of the boundary in the Sir Creek area. Five rounds of discussions have taken place on this issue. The maritime boundary between the two countries has also not yet been delineated.

Government are committed to the resolution of outstanding issues between India and Pakistan peacefully, through bilateral dialogue as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. The formal official level discussions between the two countries have recently resumed. The Joint Statement issued after the second round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level discussions held in Islamabad from 19—23 June, 1997 provides the framework for a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue on outstanding issues between the two countries.

China :

There are outstanding issues with regard to the India-China boundary question which have been under discussion between the two countries since the 1950s, these issues are being discussed by the two countries in the Joint Working Group established after the visit of Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988, and the Expert Group, set up subsequent to the